

Remarks:

This Amendment is directed to the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2004 setting a three month shortened period for response expiring on March 1, 2005. Claims 1,14, 16-18, 20-29, 32-36 stand rejected. Claims 15, 19, 30 and 31 stand objected to as containing allowable subject matter but depending from rejected base claims. Claims 1, Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks.

Drawing and Specification Objections

The drawings are objected to as a reference numeral 74 recited in the specification is not provided. The specification is also objected to for several informalities. Fig. 7 has been amended to provide the missing reference numeral 74. A markup of Fig. 7 is also provided in the Appendix to this Amendment with the new numeral 74 highlighted.

The examiner objected to the specification as referring inconsistently to rail members and track members, and top members and stop arms. The specification has been revised to consistently refer to "track member 18" rather than rail member 18, and "stop arm 64" rather than "stop member 64".

35 USC 102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 21, and 28 stand rejected as anticipated by Endelman. Although the Action does not specify which patent is being applied, the undersigned attorney assumes it is No. 6,120,425 because of the use of terms "assembly (62,64)" by the examiner. The examiner states that "The track members are tubular with a rectangular cross section (fig. 4)." This assertion by the examiner is clearly incorrect. The track member 18, in Fig. 4 of the '425 patent is shown in a plan view. In Fig. 5, a cross section of the track member 18 is shown as a SOLID body. There is NO tubular structure present in the track member 18 anywhere in this patent.

Independent claims 1 and 21, as amended, specifically recite that the track members are tubular. Further, the anchor bar and carriage stop assembly **is captured within** the tubular track members, and **the assembly, within the track members, has means for locking the anchor bar at different distance positions from the foot end while maintaining a predetermined minimum distance between the carriage and the anchor bar.** It is respectfully submitted that Endelman '425 does not disclose or suggest these elements and limitations. Thus the rejection of claims 1 and 21 should be withdrawn.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Sheet 7 of the drawing with the attached Replacement Sheet 7. A markup of Sheet 7 showing the drawing changes is included with this amendment in the Appendix.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and claim 28 depends from claim 21 and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons as claims 1 and 21.

35 USC 103 Claim Rejections

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-18, 20, 22-27, 29, and 32 stand rejected over Endelman '425 in view of Liao. Endelman discloses an anchor bar and carriage stop bar assembly 60 that is mounted **on top of the** rectangular track members 18. The assembly includes an anchor bar support bracket 66 that is fixed to the track member 18. The square ends of the anchor bar 62 are welded to carriage stop bars 64. The anchor bar 62 fits into vertical slots in the support brackets 66 and must be lifted out of the support brackets 66 in order to be moved between the different positions in the support brackets 66. See the '425 patent, column 2, lines 34-44 and Figs. 4 and 5.

Liao discloses a rod termination assembly that has a rectangular tenon 14 that fits within a rectangular slot 21 and is fastened in the tube 20 via a threaded fastener 30 through the opposite side of the tube 20 into the tenon 14. The tenon cannot move in the slot 21. The tube 20 has a series of spaced closed slots 21. The Liao device requires that the tenon be disengaged from the tube 20 in order to position the tenon 14 into a different slot 21. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Liao of having spaced stop portions **within the elongated** slot as in Applicants claims. Therefore Liao taken in conjunction with Endelman '425 does not suggest having an anchor bar and carriage stop assembly mounted within and captured by the track members as Applicant claims. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-18, 20, 22-27, and 32 should now be withdrawn as the cited references do not disclose or suggest the limitations and elements in Applicants amended claims as set forth above.

Claims 33-35 stand rejected as unpatentable over Endelman publication 2003/0195095. This publication does, in fact disclose a reformer having a frame, a movable carriage having a set of support rollers and guide members (fig. 14, and a plurality of elastic members (24). However, claim 33 specifically requires that the support rollers be fastened **to one of a pair of spaced rectangular tubes fastened to said carriage** and positioned to roll on one of said horizontal surfaces of said track members, **each of said guide rollers being fastened to a horizontal portion of one of said rectangular tubes and positioned to roll along one of said vertical surfaces of said track members.** It is respectfully submitted that the cited publication does NOT disclose such square tube structure on the carriage. Figure 14 of this reference shows a

sheet metal bracket 22. There is no suggestion in this reference of using square tubes fastened to the carriage and oriented as claimed. This rejection should clearly be withdrawn.

Claim 36 stands rejected as unpatentable over Endelman 704. Claim 36 has been amended so as to provide the necessary structure to distinguish this claim over Endelman '704. This rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 15, 19, 30-31 stand objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Claims 15 and 19 depend from amended claims 1 and 16 respectively. The base claims are believed to now be allowable and therefore dependent claims 15 and 19 are also believed to be allowable, thus the objection has been overcome. Claim 30 has been placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore claims 30 and 31 are believed to be in allowable form.

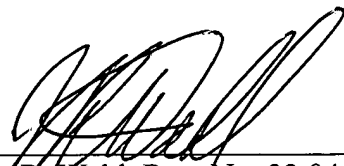
Conclusion

Claims 1-36 remain pending in the application and are now believed to be in allowable form. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests prompt reconsideration of this application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

2/28/05
Date

Customer No. 23522



John R. Wahl, Reg. No. 33,044
Merchant & Gould P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(303) 357-1644
(303) 357-1641 (fax)

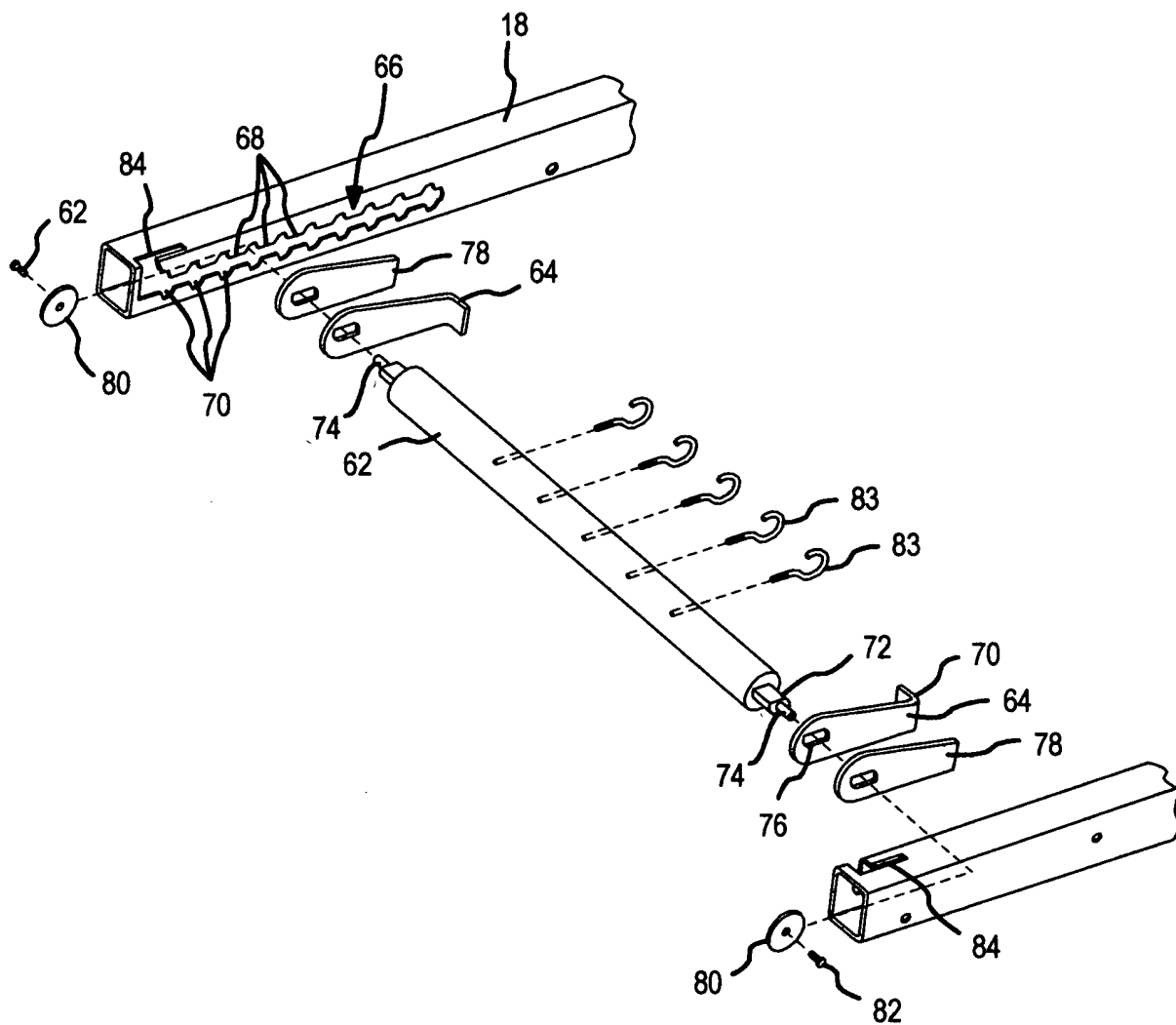


FIG.7